



WESTERN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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November 3, 2006

Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th. Street. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Subject:

Reallocation of the 700 MHz Spectrum (747-762 & 777-792 MHz) from its
current commercial use, RM-11348

Chair Martin,

On behalf of the Western Fire Chiefs Association, serving the 10 western states (Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and Montana), please place the following resolution into the record regarding RM-11348.

The attached resolution 2006-03 has been passed by the Board of Directors and entered into the public record.

In short, it is the opinion of the Western Fire Chiefs Association that the current available contiguous should be augmented to serve our current and growing need for spectrum.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Johnson".

Jeffrey D. Johnson, President

Western Fire Chiefs Association
727 Center Street, N.E. Suite 300
Salem, Oregon 97301

WESTERN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Resolution 06-03

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR 700 MHz BROADBAND SPECTRUM ALLOCATION INITIATIVES BENEFITTING PUBLIC SAFETY PROVIDERS

Whereas, the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) fundamentally supports collaborative and innovative approaches to enhancing the fire service and advancing firefighter, citizen, and community safety; and

Whereas, successful command and control of emergency incidents requires immediate access to reliable and robust radio signals by all responders to ensure a well-coordinated, multidisciplinary approach; and

Whereas, the current inability to readily communicate between individual “patchworked” systems has proven to impede critical operations and threaten responder safety in the course of rendering assistance; and

Whereas, a seamless, wireless, broadband public safety radio communications network with sufficient and priority access for data transmissions will enhance the public safety responder’s ability to protect and saves lives; and

Whereas, the FCC’s planned clearance of frequency spectrum in the 700MHz band through 2009, that which is currently occupied by television broadcasters, presents a unique and timely opportunity to join with allied partners, both public and private, to increase the quantity of available frequencies for first responder data communications and provide an opportunity to augment and back-up mission critical land-mobile voice communications using new VoIP technologies as well as to greatly improve the quality and reliability of such transmissions;

Therefore, be it resolved, the WFCA supports the concept of seeking an additional allocation of 30 MHz of 700MHz spectrum allocation to public safety to advance interoperable, broadband communications nationwide. The WFCA further supports establishing management of this spectrum allocation in a manner that creates a nationwide next generation broadband network for public safety. Additionally, the WFCA encourages the FCC to conduct

formal rulemaking hearings about this matter and debate on its merits. To advance support of this concept, the WFCA will actively engage in outreach efforts to the WFCA's membership and allied professional associations.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on September 13, 2006

Chief Jeffrey D. Johnson,
WFCA President